

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

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report on the Potsdam area which gives information under the following headings: (1) Disappearance of Senior SAF Officers, (2) Some Movements to and from Potsdam/Werder, and (3) Officer Cadets.

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EAST GERMANY

Air/Military

POTSDAM WERDER AND WILDPARK

1. DISAPPEARANCE OF SENIOR S.A.F. OFFICERS

- (a) Two of the S.A.F. Generals, normally seen in POTSDAM/WILDPARK, have not been seen at all since 26 Apr 56.
- (b) The safety blinds of their villas at Am Zernsee have not been in the raised position during the period.
- (c) Lt Gen PODKORNY has been seen in his car on three occasions in POTSDAM.

2. SOME MOVEMENTS TO AND FROM POTSDAM/WERDER

- (a) i) During the night 27/28 Apr 56, two rail coaches with about 100 officers and six closed trucks with 200 airmen arrived at POTSDAM/WERDER airfield from DRESDEN.
ii) Five open trucks with large crates and seven closed trucks were attached to the same transport.
- (b) On 28 Apr 56, at 0700 hrs 18 tri-axle tarpaulin covered lorries arrived at the airfield by road. Each lorry had a driver and co-driver. A saloon car with three S.A.F. officers headed the column.
- (c) On 2 May 56, at 2200 hrs 9 "heavy" tanks and 5 saloon cars were loaded on to rail trucks at POTSDAM/WILDPARK and sent to JUTERBOG via WILDPARK/WEST station. About 80 tank troops and 120 S.A.F. were in five trucks attached to the same transport.

3. OFFICER CADETS

- (a) Approximately 150 S.A.F. Officer Cadets training as pilots and technical officers have remained in the barracks at POTSDAM/WERDER. These are cadets doing six months theoretical training before posting to an airfield in East Germany.
- (b) This pattern has been observed for a period of three years.
- (c) The cadets are confined to the airfield except for group visits to POTSDAM and KARLSHORST when they go by coach.

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